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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing ... and Catching Fish!

MAY 6th, 1976, ISSUE No. 16

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOLUME 11, No. 16 — MAY 6th, 1976

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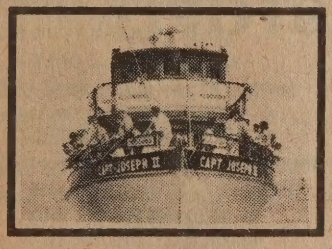

About the Cover—

The Captain Joseph II, one of the Captain Joseph Fleet in Captree, is anchored for flounders in Great South Bay. Fishing in GSB went wild this week with both the weakfish and the fluke moving in. See fishing reports for details.

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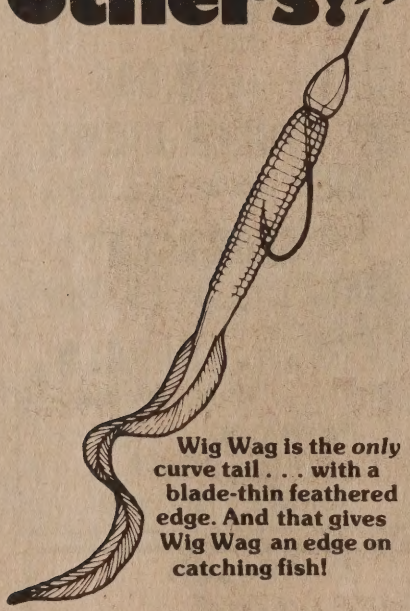

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CLUB NEWS

NORTH BROOKHAVEN SPORT FISHERMEN'S CLUB

The next meeting of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club, Inc., will take place on Monday Night, May 10th at 9:00 P.M. All island fishermen are invited to attend this meeting, which will be held in the Mt. Sinai Community House, North Country Road, in Mt. Sinai. (¼ mile east of the Mt. Sinai Firehouse.)

Fresh water fishing on Long Island's "Back Woods" ponds and lakes will be the topic for this month. Featured will be some of the fresh water fishermen who make up this mostly salt water club. A list of all the hot spots will be given out, and a color slide show on what some of these ponds and lakes look like will also be shown. Slides showing size and species of fish will also be shown, as well as what type of boats to use on these ponds.

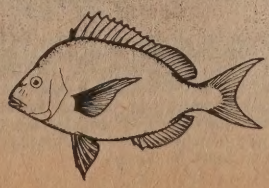
The color slide show will feature ponds and lakes not seen from main roads, and one would think he (or she) was up state rather than here on Long Island. Come see this interesting set of color slides..... Fishing in the Boon Docks, Long Island style. Coffee will be served and admission is free.

For more information on this club which is chartered by the State of New York in 1970 as a non-profit club association, call in the Lake Ronkonkoma area: 588-6080, and in the Rocky Point area call 744-6260.

SURF AND SEA ANGLERS OF QUEENS

The Surf and Sea Anglers of Queens held its first Annual Dinner and Dance on March 27, 1976 at the Patio Club. Awards were given to: Joe Esposito for 135 lb. Mako shark; Nick vento for 11 lb. bluefin, Joe Esposito for 13½ lb. (surf) bluefish; Tony Micko for a 9 pound blackfish, Frank Montalbano for a 6½ pound weakfish and Nick Mammano for a 5½ pound fluke.

The club spirit award went to Ronald Fede. Also caught by the club during the year was a 74 pound white marlin. The club has a few openings for new members. Anyone interested may call Tony Micko at 728-2296.



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CROSSING THE BAR with Don Vetter

Outboard For Big Game

Part I

With the vast increase in the popularity of light tackle for the largest of saltwater gamefish has come a parallel and complimentary development of large and seaworthy offshore outboard powered craft. The lightness of the tackle precludes fishing from the cockpit of the large sportfisherman; the smaller, more maneuverable outboard is a pre-requisite. Development of high speed outboard hulls that are both safe and relatively comfortable offshore together with modern, reliable high horsepower outboard motors and high quality light tackle that will hold together under extreme pressure have been responsible for the new look in big game fishing.

Here are some of the features to be found in the ideal offshore fisherman; a high speed hull capable of covering great distances in the open sea in incredibly short running times. A roomy, uncluttered cockpit for ease of mobility while fishing. Stowage space for the large arsenal of rods favored by the serious big game fisherman together with tackle boxes, foul weather gear and the plethora of other equipment to be carried offshore.

The center console arrangement has become almost universal for craft of this type, and for good and valid reasons; access to the gunwales is unobstructed. on both sides for the entire length of the boat which is of paramount importance when playing a large fish on light tackle. The controls are centrally located and easily accessible in tight situations. The console also provides dry storage space when running in rough water and gives a place to mount the myriad electronic gear these craft are equipped with.

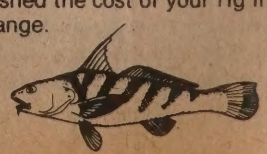
As far as hull conformity goes, the deep V bottom is the choice with most, though variations such as the modified V and semi V are also popular. Though modified and semi V hulls serve well in a variety of situations, it is the deep V which provides the safest and most comfortable ride when the going gets really rough. Fitting out a fully equipped outboard sportfisherman for big game fishing is an expensive proposition, and it is not unusual for a fully equipped 18 footer to cost in the vicinity of $8000. A similarly equipped 20 footer may sell for $12,000 and a 24 footer may come out at above $20,000. To gain a better insight into these figures and what they represent, let us examine the components that go into the makeup of a completely equipped offshore game fishing outboard.

For the hulls in the 17 to 19 foot category (satisfactory for use offshore under favorable weather conditions) the base price would range from $2500 to $3500 for the deluxe models and a good galvanized trailer for the rig from $500 to $800. Typical outfits in the 17 to 19 class will weigh out at around 2000 pounds loaded, so pick trailer capacity accordingly. The motor to power a craft of this size will usually run in the 50 to 115 horsepower range with a single 100 horsepower motor being the all around choice. Cost of the powerplant: $1500 to $2100.

The hull sizes 20 to 24 feet are the top choice for serious big game fishing, for they may be employed offshore in all weathers, and a top of the line model in this range will cost from $4500 to $7500 A twin axle glavanized trailer to carry such a boat will cost between $1100 and $2000. One of the features to look for in one of these big trailers would be integral trailer brakes. Either twin or single outboard power may be employed on a craft of this size; a single 85 to 150 horsepower motor will cost you from $2000 to $2900 and a twin 50 to 70 h.p. installation checks out at $3600 to $4200 the pair. The larger craft of 22 feet and above will require a pair of motors of 70 to 150 horsepower and cost you from $4200 to $6000 for the two.

Adding up the cost of boat, motor and trailer in the 17 to 19 foot class, you will come up with a figure of between $4500 and $6500. So whereby the $8000 figure mentioned at the outset? Accessories make up the difference: start off with a tachometer, an essential piece of equipment on any boat ($35). Power trim ($250) is valuable for shallow water, but also for varying load conditions offshore. Your trailer is heavy so why not save some strain with a dolly-jack ($40)? A spare trailer tire ($40) is certainly in order, and an electric winch ($150) is welcome at the end of a long hard day afloat. A VHF-FM radio is a safety necessity ($375) though you may want to carry a CB ($160) as well for fisherman to fisherman chatter. A console cover ($60) will protect your expensive electronic equipment if you store your boat outside.

A suitable depth finder will run about $160 for a flasher and $500 for the recording type (which is much preferred by serious fishermen). For either of these units, a waterproof vinyl cover ($20) is required. As a safety precaution for offshore fishing, a spare motor in the 6 horsepower range ($425) will give you 5 knots if the main power ever breaks down. When you add up the cost of the above accessories, you find that you have pushed the cost of your rig into the $8000 range.



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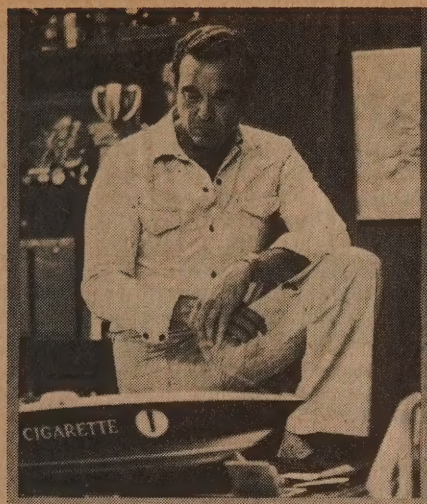

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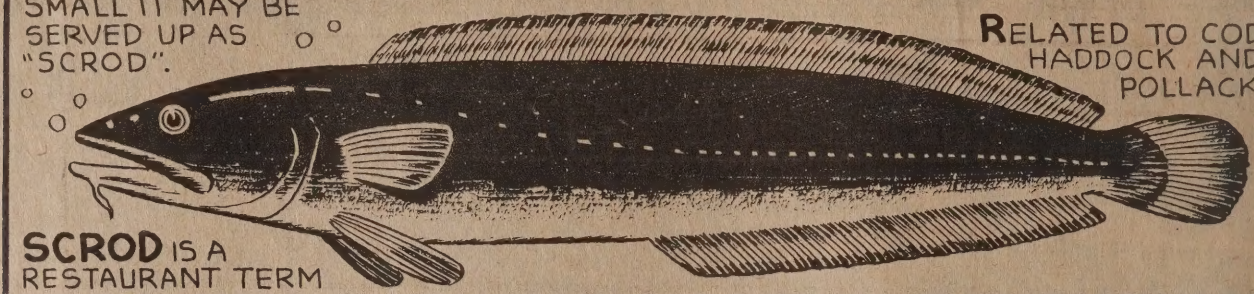
CUSK, COYOTES & CARP

BY FRED GUARDINEER

CUSK PROWL THE ROCKY OCEAN FLOOR OF THE NORTHEAST FROM THE ARCTIC SOUTH TO NEW JERSEY. THEY GROW TO 27 LBS. AND 3½ FT. WHEN SMALL IT MAY BE SERVED UP AS "SCROD".

RELATED TO COD, HADDOCK AND POLLACK.



SCROD IS A RESTAURANT TERM FOR COD, HADDOCK, POLLACK AND CUSK SO THE MENU CAN BE PRINTED BEFORE THE FISH COME IN. THIS WAY ANY OF THESE VARIETIES CAN BE OFFERED AS FRESH "SCROD."

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"CARP CROSSING" SIGNS ARE ERECTED BY PAVED ROADS TO WARN MOTORISTS DRIVING ALONG THE GREAT LAKES. DURING THE SPRING FLOODS BIG CARP OFTEN WRIGGLE ACROSS THE FLOODED LAKESIDE CAUSEWAYS.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	12:56	1:47	1:53	2:35	1:28	2:21	2:43	3:34	4:22	4:57	4:49	5:27	1:16	1:56	5/6
FRI.	1:54	2:48	2:54	3:35	2:26	3:19	3:47	4:33	5:19	5:56	5:48	6:25	2:16	2:56	5/7
SAT.	3:01	3:51	3:56	4:37	3:31	4:22	4:49	5:29	6:22	6:59	6:51	7:24	3:19	3:54	5/8
SUN.	4:08	4:54	4:59	5:37	4:41	5:26	5:54	6:25	7:30	8:04	7:53	8:20	4:20	4:49	5/9
MON.	5:15	5:54	5:59	6:33	5:49	6:26	6:53	7:17	8:41	9:10	8:50	9:15	5:15	5:44	5/10
TUE.	6:15	6:47	6:55	7:26	6:50	7:19	7:47	8:09	9:47	10:09	9:47	10:08	6:11	6:37	5/11
WED.	7:11	7:37	7:49	8:17	7:45	8:10	8:40	9:00	10:48	11:04	10:40	10:59	7:03	7:28	5/12
THUR.	8:02	8:26	8:43	9:09	8:39	9:00	9:33	9:50	11:44	11:57	11:32	11:50	7:55	8:18	5/13

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/10	4:45	7:09
5/15	4:39	7:14
5/20	4:34	7:19
5/25	4:31	7:23
5/30	4:28	7:28

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/29	5/7	5/13	5/20

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	11:00	**5:05**	11:15	**5:45**
FRI.	11:55	**6:10**	—	**6:35**
SAT.	12:20	**6:55**	12:50	**7:25**
SUN.	1:05	**7:45**	1:40	**8:10**
MON.	1:55	**8:30**	2:25	**9:00**
TUE.	2:40	**9:20**	3:15	**9:50**
WED.	3:30	**10:10**	4:05	**10:40**
THUR.	4:20	**11:05**	4:55	**11:35**

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SPRINGTIME LING

The other day I was fortunate enough to listen in on several sinker bouncers discussing the relative merits of Long Island's various bottom fish. It was interesting to hear each individual make his point. But at the conclusion of the debate, one well-informed fisherman made this remark: "I don't care what you guys say. As far as I'm concerned, the ling is the easiest fish to catch."

That observation made me stop and think. And the more I thought about it, the more convinced I became that that fisherman was right. For what other worth while fish is so easy to catch? What other fish of merit is such a willing biter?

Some fishermen might argue the point and say whiting are just as eager to accept the baited hook. True enough, but I believe the ling has the advantage in this respect: Few whiting approach the weight of the average ling—it doesn't take long to fill a bucket with ling.

My acquaintance with these fish goes back many years. During the great Depression days when I was a "wet-behind-the-ears" kid who thought he knew all there was to know about fishing, I often jeeringly referred to the party boats specializing in this fishing as "low-down ling-belly boats", and the fishermen on board as "ling jerkers". I just couldn't understand why any angler in his right mind would pass up the excellent sea bass, porgy, and fluke fishing then available.

I understand now, of course. For not only did these old timers seize upon this golden opportunity to feed their families, catching ling was a lot of fun to boot. I recall how many of these fishermen not only sold their catch at the dock, thereby assuring themselves of the two bucks needed for the next days fare, but they quite often returned home with quantities of delicious food and cheerfully disposed of them to their less fortunate neighbors.

Throughout more than fifty years of fishing I've heard ling called many disparaging remarks, and some of this slander persists today. Sad to say, I was guilty of this myself, but that was before I knew better. Usually, these remarks were passed on by fishermen who had never caught ling; or who have done so, left them to lie on a hot deck in the blazing summer sun, where, as with any fish, they soon became unfit for human consumption. Take my word for it, there's nothing wrong with ling.

As already said, ling fishing is great fun, and novice fishermen can really go to town on them. Many experienced party boat enthusiasts who really enjoy linging, go so far as to shun even the excellent mackerel fishing available during May. Some party boats devote all their spring fishing to these smaller members of the cod family. Their "regulars" want ling and more ling. Certainly, they must know something other fishermen should know.

Have I got you interested in ling? Good. Let's see how to go about getting a few. It's perhaps best to begin with a short run-down.

Ling are cool water fish, not cold, mind you, and few are caught during summer when coastal waters are warmest. By mid-October, though, some ling begin to show and fishing remains fair until extreme cold weather. But catches are nowhere near those of springtime.

But this doesn't necessarily mean there are less ling available. It just means fishermen are too busy chasing cod and blackfish to spend their time on ling. Those caught are usually incidental to this fishing. During late April, however, and into May and June, and often throughout the month of July, ling are plentiful and more than willing to take on any fisherman desiring to dangle a baited hook.

Now, with another spring at hand, ling are back in force in their old haunts and there'll be a multitude of fishermen after them. These fellows know they'll have little trouble filling the bucket with these greedy feeders. No one gets skunked when ling fishing.

At one time, ling were often considered a drop-line fish: hit the bottom and pull them in. But today, fishermen want as much sport as possible from their fishing and they use the lightest tackle needed to do the job. When this is done, ling can be felt putting up a fair resistance for their size, especially when caught around shallow-water wrecks and offshore of the ocean beaches.

A medium-weight boat rod and matching conventional reel capable of holding at least 100 yards of 20 to 30 pound test mono is the best choice. With it there's no trouble hooking ling in any area you may be fishing. It will have the backbone to lift the fish aboard, even if it's better than average in size. No one bothers to net or gaff ling.

Stay away from spinning tackle, especially on party boats. This tackle isn't made to handle the heavy sinkers sometimes needed to hold bottom, which will occasionally go over eight ounces.

Last spring I watched a frustrated angler miss one fish after another on this light stuff. The poor guy finally managed to hook a few fish and when he did, the rod had to be put down and the fish handlined aboard. Who needs this kind of aggravation? A word to the wise is sufficient.

Leaders aren't necessary—there is nothing shy about ling. Ordinary snelled hooks to do the job perfectly.

As for hooks, my preference has always been a 3/0 or 4/0 regular shanked Sproat. On occasion, I've used a 5/0 about three feet above the sinker whenever I felt there might be stray cod about, as when fishing in late April around the deep water of the Ambrose Tower grounds. But this is usually a catch-as-catch-can deal and I wouldn't expect too much from it if you're fishing past the first week of May. If you're fishing open bottom, the top hook is more likely to garner whiting.

It's best to tandem-tie two hooks and place the set about two inches above the sinker. Should you be fishing over a wreck or rocks, and the conditions are "sticky" it's then wiser to use just one bottom hook.

You may catch fewer fish when double-headers are coming up, but don't let that bother you. You'll lose less rigging, save much time rerigging, and at the end of the day, you'll have about the same amount of fish as your two-hook neighbor with a lot less headache.

Three way swivels aren't necessary. Just form a two-inch loop with a double-overhand knot at the required distance above your sinker and use that in its place. Get in the habit of using the least amount of terminal tackle needed to do the job. You'll always catch more fish if you do—not only ling, but all bottom fish.

Ling take a variety of baits, but the most popular is the skimmer-clam and this is the kind you'll find aboard most party boats. Fishermen use other baits, including squid strips and fish bait. Don't bother to cut a slice from one of

our ling; it's too soft to remain on the ook for any length of time. You can use strip of bergall or dogfish though. These baits are much tougher and they'll ave much rebaiting.

Make sure whatever strip bait you lecide to use is cut into no more than hree-inch lengths. Weave the hook hrough twice and allow a little to wiggle nticingly in the current for best results.

The same applies to skimmer, but use nedium-width pieces about two inches ong and cut to include some of the soft elly. Ling have no teeth to speak of and hey relish a soft bait.

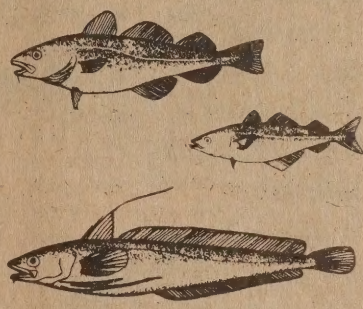
When fishing open bottom, boats drift r still-fish. Drifting is usually more roductive, but it isn't necessary to do so chum is used. Just bait a dozen or so whole skimmers overboard to get the ish started. They'll soon begin biting. Once started, it's rarely necessary to hum again.

Many sunken wrecks hold large uantities of ling during May and June. Chumming usually isn't necessary, but if he fishing is slow, it is done on the hance the fish are feeding a short istance away.

Long Island's waters, especially in the lew York Bight, contain an abundance f ling in springtime. I've caught them at he following grounds over the years:

The Ambrose Tower grounds, the Ambrose Ridge, the old Scotland Lightship grounds, the Cedars off Sandy Hook (very good in mid-May), the Subway grounds south of Ambrose, Seabright, 17 Fathom Bank, the "high-spots" on the Cholera Banks (often excellent in July, the Klondike Banks, the Angler Banks, the South-east grounds, Coal Wreck, Steel Wreck, Joe Wreck, C.O.D. Wreck, Stone Barge, Howard Wreck, Iberia wreck, (bring plenty of extra tackle when fishing here), and the McAllister grounds. Most any ground near these places will produce ling and often "pot luck" pays off. It's worth the try.

And that's about all I can tell you about springtime ling fishing. Plan a trip soon. Go out and have a ball. You won't be sorry.



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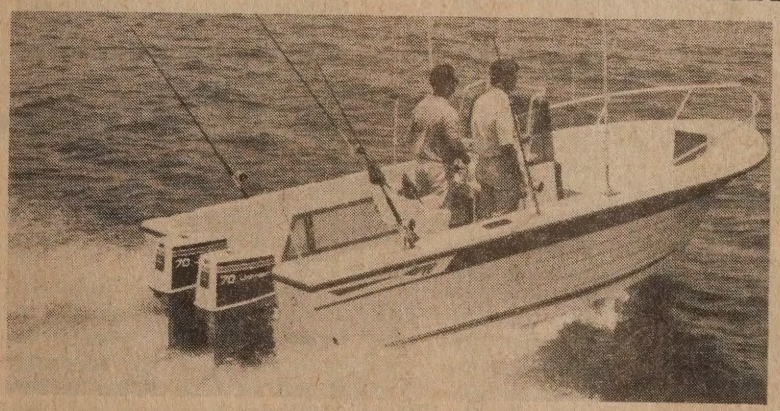

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Surf Side with Doc Muller

Weakfishing The South Shore Back-Bay Part I

A small block tin arched across the mirror smooth water of the State Channel and when it hit the water it sent up a spray of sandeels and spearing. the angler waited for the lure to sink toward the bottom for a few seconds and then began a slow retrieve. A tiderunner smashed the lure about half-way to the bog and immediately began stripping line from the tiny reel. Several minutes later a gleaming purple and yellow weakfish adorned the dark bog.

When most people think weakfish they think boats or if surf fishing is a guy's true love then maybe visions of Shagwong Point at Montauk may come to mind. However, the shorebound angler has many more opportunities than that, especially from the banks of the south shore back bay.

Identifying the Productive Locations:

The entire back-bay is a maze of rips, bars, bridges, and channels. Thus, we are faced with an interesting double-edged situation. There are many great locations, but—there are too many of them. The fish can't be everywhere, can they? Now you know better than that! The State Channel is both a swimway and a feeding area so you can either find the bait or find the holes where the weaks may rest.

Exploratory trips are easy, pleasant, and usually produce at least a few fish. Walk the bog at dusk when the fading light coincides with the top of the tide and the first few hours of the ebb. Look for current eddys, spraying bait, or pockets of calm water surrounded by turbulence. Each type of water condition indicates a changing bottom contour. Eddys usually indicate places where the bottom rises sharply toward the surface: either a mound, bar, reef, or rock pile. Bait usually gathers at the edges of eddys because these calm pockets offer some protection. Spraying will indicate that the weakfish have found the bait. Other pockets of calm water surrounded by turbulence are indicative of a hole or depression located in shoal water. The weakfish gather in the deep water pockets so that they can ambush the bait that drifts by near the surface.

KNOWN PRODUCTIVE AREAS—

Cedar Beach:

One of the best spots is located behind Cedar Beach. Park in the Cedar Beach Overlook lot and walk across the parkway to the bog. The entry into the head of the marsh is a little difficult because of low trees, bushes, and tall marsh grasses, but there are several paths that can be easily found by looking around a bit.

I would suggest that you wear tight fitting clothing especially around the neck, waist and wrists. Waders are unnecessary, but calf length booths are essential and the tops should be tight fitting. The area has many ticks and entry areas to your body should be sealed off. It is also helpful to spray these areas and other parts of exterior clothing with an effective insect repellant such as Deep Woods Off. The ticks have been carrying Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever the last few years and precautions against their attack are vital.

Inlets:

Other good areas are found inside the inlets where shifting sands produce bars and rips where old jetties divert the water off its natural course and create eddys and calm pockets.

Bridges:

The bridge pilings offer resistance to the tidal currents which sweep through the State Channel. Thus they increase turbulence and the baitfish are helplessly tumbled in the eddys and surges.

Clam chummers have proven that the fish are there and the surf anglers who cast bucktails, tins, and plugs into the turbulence will score with big weaks.

SEASONS

The weakfish may appear very early, but the quality of the sport may leave much to be desired in late April. By early May, the fishing becomes more consistent and good catches of weaks that average 4-5 pounds and may be as large as 10 pounds are made behind the ocean front from the Robert Moses Bridge to Zach's Bay. Prime time seems to be the second and third weeks in May. If the weather is unusually cool, the peak of the run will be delayed for a week and mild weather may accelerate the season by as much as a week.

Tiderunners are available all summer around the bridges and inlets even though the fish are not abundant and they can weigh as little as 2 or 3 pounds.

By September the yellowfins begin to respond to cooling waters and they will again enter the bay, but they do not penetrate as deeply into the back as they did in May. Large schools of big fish will gather just inside the inlets and around the large bridges. These fish are usually feeding on snappers and large bunker. Frequently blues will mix with the weakfish and an occasional cow bass is taken especially in early October.

TIME OF DAY:

In May the best time of day is dusk and dawn when the first few hours of the outgoing tide coincides with this half-light period. Night fishing with plugs can also produce well, but there seems to be less need for nighttime sorties when the yellowfins are abundant in May.

However, during the summer when the weaks are most often caught in small rips and around the bridges the dark of night is best. The exact time should coincide with the outgoing tide.

LURES:

Plastic shrimp are still a favorite from the bog in the back and they do work well. However, I prefer other lures because they are more durable, but I'll not argue with a man who is sold on the plastic.

Tins:

Tins are very effective in the back because there is usually an abundant supply of small bait such as sandeels and spearing. The Hopkins shorty, three-quarter to one ounce Kastmasters, Fjord Spoons, Pet Spoons, Johnson's Sprite, and many other fine commercial products are excellent. It is not necessary to add porkrind or squid strips to the tins, but I have seen some of the regulars use Uncle Josh Bass Strips with very good success.

The tins should be worked slowly very close to the bottom so that they wobble like an injured baitfish. Fish in pain or about to die sometimes swim erratically and may suddenly bolt toward the surface and for that reason an occasional twitch of the rod tip may produce when an absolutely straight retrieve will not. if the water is very clear it may be more worthwhile to add a little speed to the lure so that the weaks get only a quick look at the shimmering tins.

Metal lures should be used with snaps such as the Duo-Lock or Pompanette. The snaps allow the tins to wobble freely.

Bucktails:

Bucktails catch almost any kind of fish under almost any kind of conditions and they should be a constant part of your arsenal and this is especially true for weakfish.

The most effective bucktails for weakfish are small (1/8 to ½ ounce) and the best colors are white and yellow.

There are an almost endless variety of bucktail designs from bullets to shad darts to flat sided and goo-goo eyed lead heads. They all work. Try to bounce the bucktail over sandy bottoms and even on mud if there isn't any weed, but try a straight retrieve if there is a lot of weed. Retrieve the lure at the same pace that you would the tins.

Some fishermen like to add either porkrind or squid strips to bucktails and I'm one of them. However, there are also many anglers who believe that the hair is just as effective without embellishment. Last May in this column, I described how to prepare and conveniently carry squid strips when walking the beach. Why not try it both ways and reach your own conclusions.

Next week I'll discuss other lures as well as tackle, landing the fish, fighting them, and other odds and ends.

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Advanced Weakfishing Part Three

There are two primary *goals* when working an artificial lure for weakfish. The most important is to KEEP THE ARTIFICIAL IN THE FEEDING ZONE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. The *normal* feeding zone of weakfish is the three feet of water directly above the bottom, *regardless* of the overall depth. There are exceptions, naturally—as when the fish are on a heavy feed and chasing baitfish. But you don't need any help when the weaks are on a feeding frenzy—just cast, give the lure a few twitches and more than likely you'll be inot a fish. What we're talking about here is when the fish are casually foraging for food.

The second primary goal of working an artificial lure is to KEEP IT MOVING IN A NATURAL DIRECTION. In strong currents, this direction is ALWAYS down-current, which means the artificial should be moving in the same direction as the moving current. When using the turbulence around bottom formations (see Part II, last week) as a feeding aid, the weakfish will *always* face up-current because that is the *natural* direction they would instinctively expect baitfish to be coming from. This is because small baitfish will *always* swim *with* a strong current, never against it, which would only serve to tire them out without any purpose. When fishing in relatively shallow areas or those with mild currents the direction that the artificial is worked in relation to the current direction is not critical, as baitfish would then be expected to swim in any direction they desired.

There are two *methods* of working an artificial lure for weakfish: casting and deep-jigging. By far the most popular of the two methods, casting and retrieving an artificial for weakfish can be extremely effective while both at anchor and drifting. Ideal conditions for casting while drifting are water with a depth of under fifteen feet and a drift that is in the same direction and speed as the moving current. The shallower the water the better, because you will be able to keep the artificial within the feeding zone of the weakfish for the maximum amount of time during the retrieve. Drifting at the same speed and direction as the moving current is important in order to present the artificial in a "natural" manner.

The correct method for casting and retrieving an artificial for weakfish from a drifting boat is shown in Diagram A, figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 is an aerial view to show the relative directions of everything, so use a little imagination. The current is moving from right to left. There is only a moderate breeze blowing, so the boat is also drifting from right to left, which is ideal. The weakfis are facing to the right, which i up-current, waiting for baitfish swimm ing down-current to come within range The artificial is cast up-current, into th direction that the boat has just drifte from. The artificial is retrieved fron right to left towards the drifting boat.

Figure 2 is a side view of the above After the artificial has been cas up-current, let it settle to the bottor before starting the retrieve. Then brin it back to the boat with short twitches o the rod tip so that the artificial hops ove the bottom within the feeding zone of th weakfish, as shown in the diagram. Th artificial will be moving directly toward the fish within the feeding zone whe done correctly. The shallower the wate the faster the lure may be retrieved wit longer sweeps of the rod. This is simpl because it is easier to keep the artificia within the feeding zone with a fas retrieve in shallow water. A fast retriev in deep water will cause the artificial t rise above this zone too quickly.

If there is a strong wind or current tha is creating a fast drift that is making difficult to keep the artificial from risin above the feeding zone, try castin up-current into the direction the boat drifting to. Let it sink to the bottom, the gather in the slack line that is created a the booat drifts towards the lure wit short twitches of the rod tip. This wi cause the artificial to "mark time, hovering over one portion of the bottor and hopping up and down. Although th lure is not moving in the preferre down-current direction, it is stayin within the feeding zone and is therefor still effective.

Another method to try with a fast dri is to cast the artificial cross-current. Le

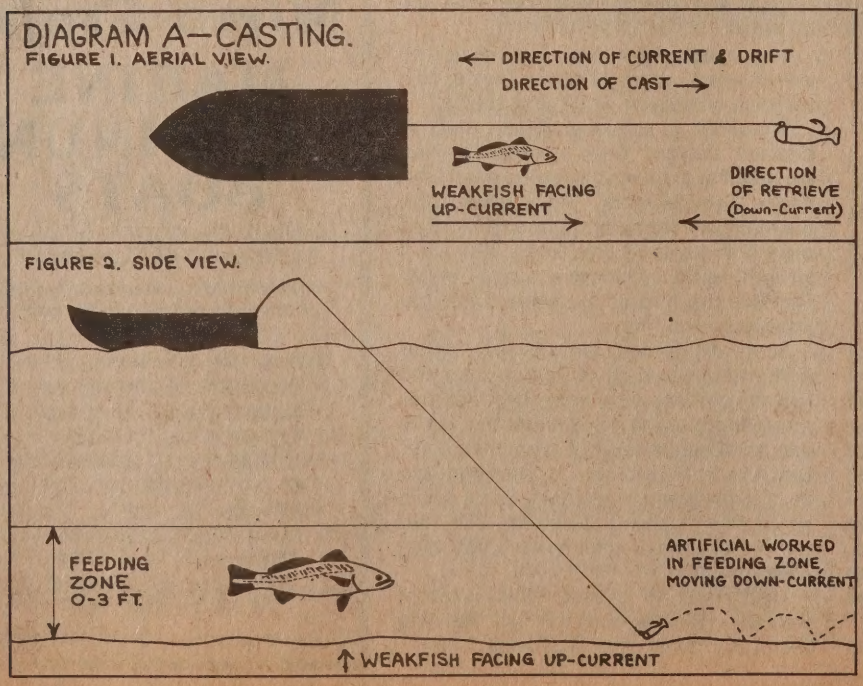
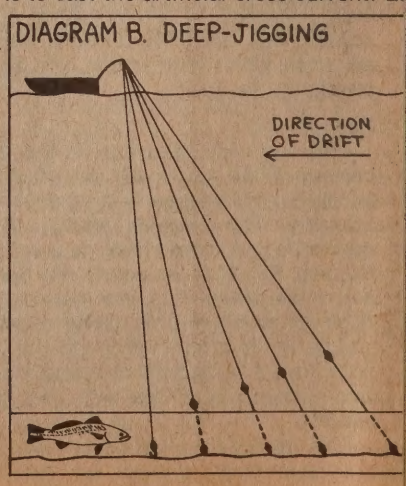


DIAGRAM A—CASTING.
FIGURE 1. AERIAL VIEW.
← DIRECTION OF CURRENT & DRIFT
DIRECTION OF CAST →
WEAKFISH FACING UP-CURRENT →
DIRECTION OF RETRIEVE (Down-Current) ←
FIGURE 2. SIDE VIEW.
FEEDING ZONE 0-3 FT.
ARTIFICIAL WORKED IN FEEDING ZONE, MOVING DOWN-CURRENT
↑ WEAKFISH FACING UP-CURRENT



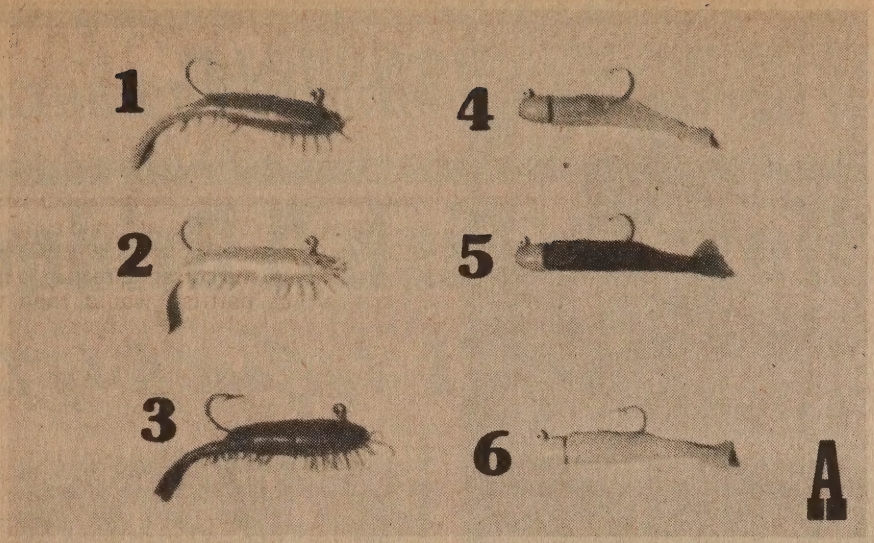
it settle to the bottom, then make a very slow retrieve with short twitches of the rod tip. The artificial will straighten out with the current, but while it is making the sweeping-arc it will remain in the feeding zone. Once the line has straightened out, however, the lure will rise above the zone so reel in quickly and cast again. Although this method has the lure moving in an unnatural direction during a large portion of the retrieve, it will keep the artificial within the feeding zone when all else fails. Better a half-a-loaf than nothing, right?

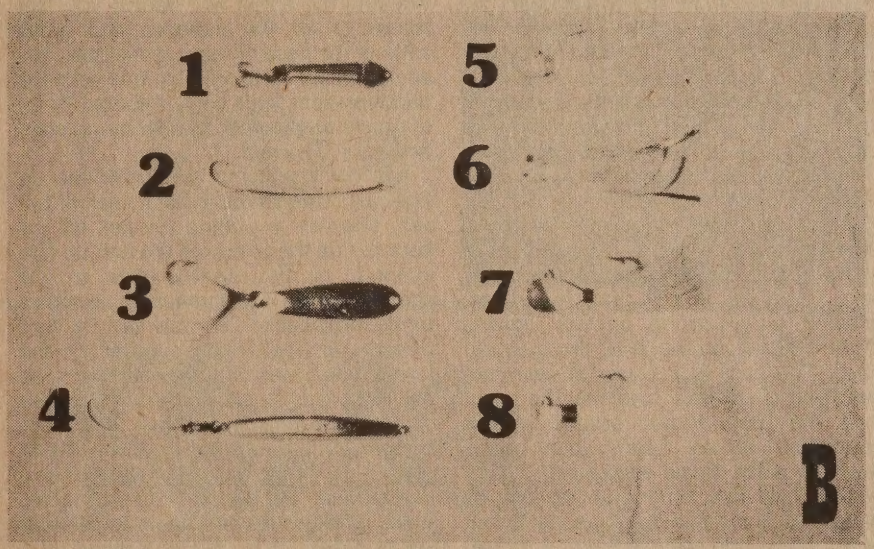
The second method of working an artificial for weakfish is deep-jigging, which is done when the fish are feeding in deep water and it is impossible to keep an artificial in the feeding zone with the cast/retrieve method. Deep-jigging is very popular around buoys 12 nad 13 off Ocean Beach in Great South Bay, the deep waters of the Peconics and in the ocean later in the season after the larger weakfish have left the bays. Let the artificial sink to the bottom on free-spool without casting. When the lure bounces on the bottom, lock the reel and start jigging the lure in a vertical movement with a sharp uplift of the rod tip, then allow the lure to flutter back to the bottom and repeat the jigging movement. The object is to keep the artificial moving vertically within the feeding zone, so every so often let out line until you feel the lure bump bottom again. This must be done because as the current scopes out the line the lure will rise above the feeding zone, as shown in Diagram B. The broken lines depict the lure being dropped back by the angler to get a new "feel" of the bottom. When you line gets a scope as wide as the one in the far right of the diagram, reel in and start over again.

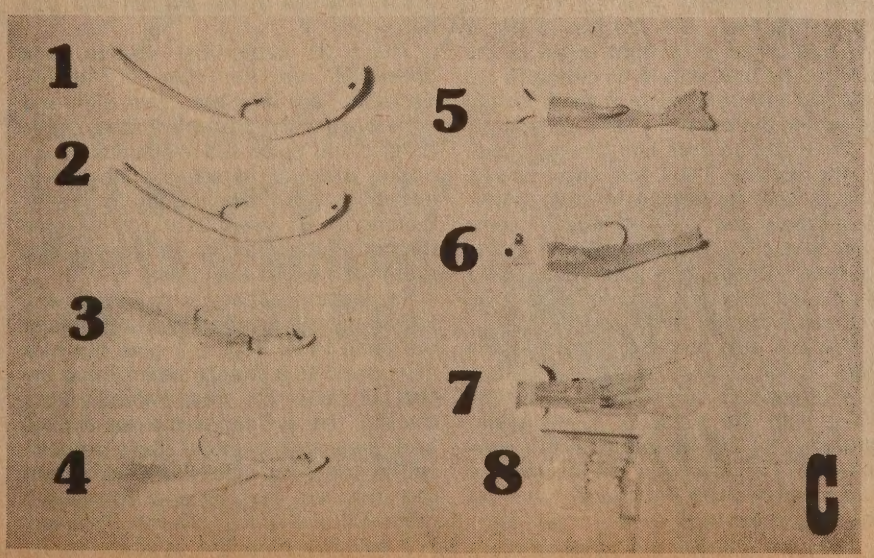
And now for the subject of artificials for weakfish. Since the weakfish returned to our waters several years ago, the lead-headed plastic shrimp has become extremely popular, almost to the exclusion of all other artificials. While the plastic shrimp **are** excellent artificials for weakfish, they do have limitations that other excellent lures don't have. So let's go over the various artificials that have proven their effectiveness for weakfish, and discuss when and how to work each for best results. Refer to the photographs that are keyed to the text as you read.

PLASTIC SHRIMP. Also known as salty dogs, plastic shrimp are simply a lead-head with a plastic tail sleeved over the hook. Three colors of the Bagley Salty Dog are shown in Photo A: (4) is the standard flourescent pink, best color for all-around daytime use; (5) is amber, best for early morning and evening weakfishing, and (6) is white, excellent color for general use. Carry an assortment of colors and experiment to see which is most productive at a given time. Three colors of the Lupo plastic shrimp are also shown in Photo A: (1) pink, (2) white, (3) amber, and is also available in natural gray. The Lupo version doesn't have a lead-head, but rather the weight is placed around the shank of the hook

(Continued on page 46.)







BASS FISHING with Capt. John DeMaio

How To Fish A Bridge For Bass

Part II by Capt. John DeMaio

The downtide side. Tie the boat to the bridge itself and let the boat hang back from the bridge. Carry a 20 foot piece of rope for tying on. No more than a boat length in most situations. Same trick here. Once again, cast parallel to the bridge and slow retrieve. Accuracy will help you to place the lure up against the bridge, in tight. If you are right handed, you will find some difficulty casting on the port side. Use a short casting stick when bridge fishing. You get little swinging area in the confines under a bridge.

The down tide side is most effective where strong tides exist. A heavy flow of tide will force bait away from the pilings and downtide. In the swirling eddies, created by a strong current flowing around the bridge supports, the bass will feed. The bass is a powerful swimmer and has no trouble catching the small bait that gets tossed around in the individual eddies. Learn your bridge eddy by eddy. Some eddies will almost always hold fish, others no. As long as we are on the down-tide side, let's talk about down tide casting. You might call it heave and haul. Pull the boat back under the bridge making sure the transom is even with the last piling. If the tide comes at a right angle to the bridge, the boat should be sitting in the tide and a swirling eddy of water should be behind the last pile you're up against.

Drop the lure back into the eddy until it hits bottom. Then reel back slowly. This is best performed in deep water. You should see the line kind of come back in a circular motion. Don't waste too much time. A half dozen drop backs should tell the story. Untie and go on to the next end pile. And so forth.

You can also heave and haul in the tide. Tie the boat fast to the first up tide pile, or support, and drop the lure back along side the supports. Once again, allow it to hit bottom, then slowly retrieve. This way you are fishing the lure squarely under the bridge. Never let the lure sit too long without movement.

The main channels are a good area for this. Of course, beware of traffic. Make the boat fast in a safe area and climb up on the channel fenders where possible. Almost all bridges have the main channel lined with a wooden apron. On the top of the apron are little walk-ways. Walking the apron will permit you fast access to all the methods and areas without the need of moving the boat. My advice would be to only try this with the buddy system. This way, if you go for an untimely swim, your buddy can explain how your drowned.

Another producing method is the up tide cast. This can be tricky to master but very effective in pulling the fish off the bottom. Tie the boat onto the first up tide support, or the up-tide side of the channel apron. The same as the position for the drop back trick. Now cast the lure directly up tide. In deep water let the lure settle, then slowly retrieve. The object here is to allow the lure to pass close to the pilings and just above the bottom. As the lure comes down tide at you, it is facing you. When the lure passes under the boat coming down tide, it will quickly turn and begin to come at you up-tide. It is at that very instant the lure changes direction that most bites occur. Practice makes perfect with this one.

That's it! Cross-tide, up-tide, and down-tide are the rule of thumb. Variations are limitless. Your skill and knowledge of the productive areas of the bridge, will spice the variations. Each bridge has a personality that will determine the tricks needed to fish it thoroughly. Be inventive and apply some original thought along the guide lines prescribed within this article.

For instance. There is no reason why you cannot cast cross-tide, and up-tide at the same time. This will give the lure more depth as it sweeps back behind the boat. Or better yet, when fishing a tight channel, that you can easily cast across, work the opposite apron. Place the boat on the down tide side of one apron and cast the lure up-tide and across the channel to the opposite apron. This way you are sweeping the opposite apron with a down-tide, and cross-tide lure action.

Main channels have lights under the bridge to aid visibility. These lights hold bait which in turn hold bass. Many times the fish will lay out in open water. The answer is not always fishing tight to the bridge. Stay alert and don't move the boat without some thought. Also move quietly and use a paddle where possible.

Sometimes a long cast is needed to take a fish very near the boat. Certain conditions set up this possibility. When all the smart moves do not work, try casting the line anywhere.

Casting is a difficult method of producing when doing the wrong thing. A slight adjustment on speed retrieve, or depth of lure, can make a difference that will amaze you. The difference can change from night to night, or one season to another. You had better be flexible. Constantly changing lures is not the answer. Stick with a proven lure and explore.

I have seen situations so tricky that only a left handed cast could get a bite. This happened one night behind a massive bridge abutment on a bridge in Jamaica Bay. The lure had to be placed perfectly along the edge of the eddy. From our standpoint, a left handed cast was the trick. Being right handed I was shut out, while my left handed companion went on to catch several fish.

Once having mastered one bridge, any other bridge is easy. Not to bore you, but another short tale to prove my point. Having fished every bridge, pier, bulkhead and railroad in Jamaica Bay, my friend and I thought we would try the Atlantic Beach Bridge. After fishing the entire night, we had a catch of 23 bass, all small fish. Most of the fish were taken anchoring up-tide of the bridge and casting crosstide. Having never fished the bridge before, it was a good nights fishing. (It might have been even better except for a couple of rum pots who kept going noisily back and forth to Hennings until the bar closed.)

Once you get his number, a striped bass can be easy prey. Bass usually have a definite feeding pattern. You can

expect to find them at a certain time of the tide in the usual hot spot. Remember, a bass will feed and swim in the same manner no matter where he is. From Delaware to Maine. All areas have their own methods. None of these methods are any too radical. In reality, all methods are designed to present the lure in a manner to make the fish bite. Different methods are determined by the character of the area. The end result will be an identical presentation of the lure. And so it is with the bridge. All the variations used result in the same desired effect. No matter how absurd the cast may seem, the result is what counts.

A word of caution. Never get on top of the fish, unless over them in deep water. Always keep the fish at a casting distance so not to spook them.

That about does it. Practice what I offer here and if there are any fish around you should catch. Remember to look for the strong tide eddies and don't forget the light shadows. The fish may back up from the bridge as far as the eddies travel. Look into all the possibilities. Cast and search. When the army taught me how to fire the 30 caliber, the expression was "Traverse and Search". Same thing casting. Place the lure in a different place after several casts. The difference in a subtle 2 feet will amaze you when fishing under a bridge. Keep moving and keep working.

Once you get your bridge wired, you will love it. A certain excitement that only the fisherman knows will be yours when coming upon the bridge. If a couple of nights prove fruitless, leave it alone and come back to fish it again in a few weeks.

If you're catching fish keep it quiet. The price of glory often comes dearly. It only takes a couple of other boats to kill an area. Learn your bridge well before you pack it in. It would take 2 or 3 nights a week for an entire season to learn the Captree bridge to Fire Island, as an example. That's considering you know the technique to begin with.

So there it is, the guide lines and even a time limit of sorts. Bridge fishing can be fulfilling and best of all inexpensive. The use of the same tackle cuts down on costs and a near location eliminates travel expense. All this gives a budget minded fisherman more time to fish. Good Luck.

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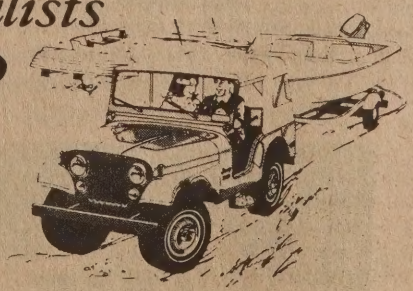

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PECONIC BAY WEAKFISH

Part III-Shelter Island Area

by Dr. William A. Muller

This is the last part of the series on weakfish. At the end of this piece I have provided information on boat launching ramps, liveries, and road access information for all of the areas that have been discussed in the series.

Weakfishing east of Jessup's Neck is not usually as consistent or predictable as it is in western portions of the bay. Therefore, it is not uncommon for boatmen in this area to run to Robin's Island for the day's fishing. None the less, there are places that can produce well with a little diligent effort.

The current rushes around Shelter Island with considerable fury and although the mackerel stack up in the deep water rips in late April and early May the weaks seem to be encountered here mostly as they migrate in and out of the bay.

Drifting squid strips on a high leader rig is worthwhile in Southold Bay, Orient Harbor, Dering Harbor, off Cedar Point County Park, and on the East-Southeast side of Jessups Neck.

It is a common practice for sharpies in this area to troll bucktails, tubes, and umbrella rigs on wire line in the restricted channel on the south side of Shelter Island, known as the South Ferry.

Actually, these anglers are really looking for school bass which are often abundant in May and early June. However, blues and weaks frequently muscle in on their fishing and since many of these fishermen fish for the market, they consider the weaks an annoyance.

I prefer not to catch any weakfish on wire, but if it is your "bag", why not try it?

I think that casting artificials is a much more pleasurable way to fish and there exists ample opportunity to wet a plastic shrimp, Whip-Tail, bucktail or tin in these waters. Many anglers have success in the shallower water between Paradise Point and Cedar Beach Point on Hog Neck, in the shallows of Dering Harbor, and in Sag Harbor.

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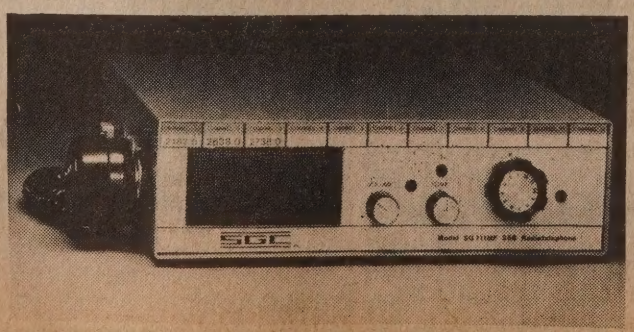

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occurs at dusk and dawn at the mouths of major creeks on the outgoing tide. the weakfish frequently stack up in and outside the tiny inlets because the spearing, sandeels, shrimp, and killies are pushed in and out of the creeks with changing tides.

On the outgoing tide, the weaks gather in the channels that have been dredged from the bay into the inlets of most creeks and can take advantage of the tidal turbulence that renders the bait easy prey.

During daylight hours, the combination of bright sunshine and heavy boat traffic discourages the tide-runners, but by the cover of the rising and setting sun the fish are "comfortable" in these shallows.

Beach fishermen score well at these inlets, but boat fishermen can also take advantage of the excellent fishing if, and this is an important if, they approach slowly with a steady speed from the side of the channel. Slip the anchor over the bow quietly and maintain the shortest rope possible. Cast into the channel and retrieve with a jigging action allowing the tide to manipulate the lure. The best tidal outlets in this area are: Crab Creek on the west side of Shelter Island, Sag Harbor, Northwest Creek, Three Mile Harbor, and Coecles Harbor.

Although a good productive current develops at the southern tip of Ram Island and weakfish are taken there early in May, other rips form close to the beach off many of the points around the Island.

At the mouth of Three Mile Harbor, there are jetties on either side and the deep water (15-25 ft) works right up against the east jetty. Sandeels funnel along this jetty and they are frequently followed by bass, harbor blues and big weakfish.

RAMPS

Jamesport State Ramp: Jericho Turnpike (Route 25) to traffic light in Jamesport. Turn South to Ramp.
New Sufffolk: Town ramp next to the ship yard. Fee for non-residents. Asphalt ramp and it is small.
Three Mile Harbor: At Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station. Pay Fee. Town ramp, non-residents pay fee.
Napeaque harbor: Promised Land Fishing Station. Pay fee.
Southold; Port of Egypt Fishing Station. Jericho Turnpike, Southold. Pay fee.

MAJOR FISHING STATIONS

New Suffolk: Captain Marty's Fishing Station. (516) 734-6852; Captain Jim's Fishing Station. Jericho Turnpike to Mattituck. Right turn on New Suffolk Avenue at Catering Building. Take New Suffolk Avenue to the end and follow signs. Make Reservations.
Southold: Port of Egypt Fishing Station. Jericho Turnpike to Southold. Make reservations. Port of Egypt Auxilliary Fishing Station at Orient. Opens in May. (516) 765-2445.
noyac bay: Noyac Marina off Noyac Road (southshore). Call for information. (516) 725-3333.
Three Mile Harbor: Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station. County road 40 North at Easthampton.
Napeague: Promised Land Fishing Station north of Montauk Highway. (NY 27) (516) 267-8571.

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Ultra-Lighting In Great South Bay

by Barry Zerder

When setting out for a fishing trip, I always find myself bringing along my ultra-light outfit. Because I own a substantial variety of fishing outfits, you might wonder why I employ the light stick. My fishing buddies don't understand and they ridicule me for using it, but they are speechless when I outfish them ninety percent of the time.

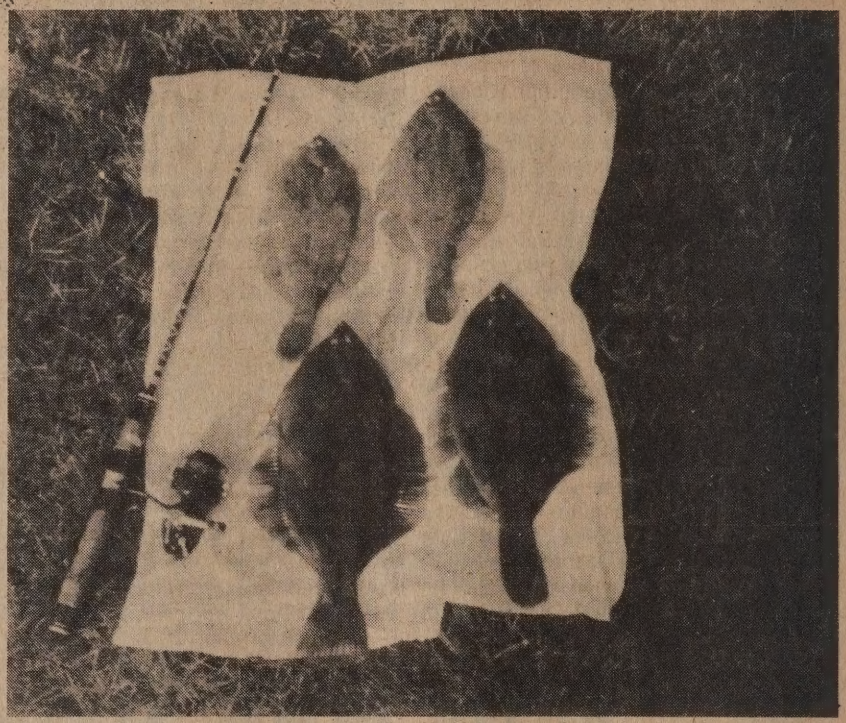
An obvious reason why I use ultra-light tackle is for the sport and challenge in catching fish, but there are other reasons as well. Large fish tend to be educated in the way they feed and are wary of heavy line and excessive hardware. By using the light line, lures or baits can be presented in a more natural manner. The light line is also easy to cast and is less affected by currents and wind. Bottom fish, such as flounder and fluke, can be felt nibbling long before they could on a heavier outfit. When using ultra-light tackle on weakfish, you do not have to worry about over pressuring the fish. It cannot be done and as a result, less weaks are lost. Ultra-light tackle is also very easy to transport. These are the most important reasons why ultra-light is my favorite.

Many people have the wrong idea of what this tackle really is. I hear them call their regular spinning rods ultra-light. Comparing this to their heavy "meat" rods, it might be true. I will clarify what ultra-light tackle is in the following paragraphs.

The true ultra-light rod has no backbone. That is, it bends evenly throughout its length. Sliding rings are used to hold the reel because they are lighter than the screw-locking variety. A good ultra-light rod will have carboloy guides to prevent the light-test lines from wearing grooves.

As for the reel, it should be as light as possible and have a good drag system. The drag should be smooth and reliable in its ability to stay at the tension at which it is set. Many drag systems loosen or work tighter when a fish is being fought. It is extremely important for this not to happen on ultra-light tackle because of the light line being used.

My ultra-light outfit consists of a five foot Garcia conolon rod fitted with a Garcia Mitchell 408 reel. The outfit is very versatile and I have used it with lures ranging from bass bugs to half ounce Kastmasters. The reel is equipped with a teflon drag system which is super smooth.



In reference to line, I feel that the top brands such as Berkeley Trilene, Stren and Garcia Royal Bonnyl perform the best. The bargain barrel lines should be avoided because they will cause more problems than anything else. On any ultra-light outfit the line should test from one to six pounds. While fishing in salt water, I find myself using six pound test most of the time. This is because it stretches less when setting the hook than the lighter line. Also, when tackling big bruisers, I am more secure with that little extra strength.

Great care must be taken when putting the line on the reel. The line should be tightly wound on the spool with a minimum amount of twist. Loosely twisted line can only present problems when fishing. You will get to know how much line to put on through experience. Fill the spool as much as possible without allowing the line to spring off by itself. As a rule of thumb, fill about one eighth inch from the spool rim. This amount of line will cut down the friction and allow the longest casts possible. Be sure to watch for line wear because it will need to be changed often during the season.

Many people don't realize that large fish can be landed on ultra-light tackle. My largest fish caught on this tackle was an eight pound weakfish. That tide-runner gave me a half hour of excitement. I have also caught flounder up to two and a half pounds which amaze me with their strength. I have successfully taken many keeper fluke but on one occasion in Jones Inlet, I hooked into a doormat fluke. That fish battled for 45 minutes and I was forced to cut it loose when it was time to leave. It can be a miserable experience to hook a fish which is too big for the light stick, but I find that the good points of using it still outweigh the bad ones. I am tempted to try it on striped bass but subconsciously I am reluctant. Those lunkers frequently come in with the schoolies so it's dangerous to take a chance, but someday I know I will try it.

The limits of ultra-light are important to know. It can be used throughout the year and in most water conditions. If the water is rough or there is a strong tide running, stay away from the light stick. From shore or a private boat it's fine, but don't bring it aboard a party boat. It will save you much embarrassment as the fishermen aboard open boats are not very understanding. You'll either get laughed off the boat or thrown off literally. It's a long swim back so I suggest you leave the ultra-light tackle home. A fisherman using light tackle has

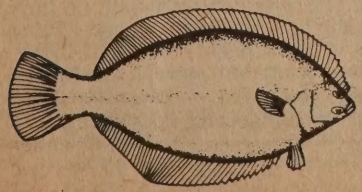
little control of a large fish and it will tangle everyone's lines into a braid. Don't use ultra-light near obstructions or any of the bay bridges. A big fish will take advantage of these obstacles and gain freedom. Remember, ultra-light tackle is best operated in an open water area free of snags.

The correct way to fight any fish on ultra-light tackle is to let him run. The drag will eventually tire him out. If he is headed for an obstruction or you're losing line quickly, add additional drag by applying slight pressure on the spool rim with your thumb or forefinger. Tightening the drag while fighting a fish is the easiest way to lose it! When the surging fish comes to a halt, pump and reel slowly. Horsing a fish in is a sure way for it to escape. When landing any decent sized fish, use a net or gaff. Swinging fish is another common way to lose them.

My most memorable experience in ultra-lighting Great South Bay took place on May 15th, 1975. I went with my friend, Gary Benkert and his father, aboard their boat, the "Big B". As we approached the Heckscher-Ocean Beach area it seemed evident that our long lost secret chart was found by some blabbermouth. There were hundreds of boats in the area! We spotted several schools of big weakfish on the surface. It was six o'clock in the evening when we began fishing, and it wasn't long before the three of us were into fish. By sunset we landed over thirty weaks from five to eight pounds. We kept about half of them for food and released the rest. It was my first experience in ultra-lighting big weakfish and their strength surprised me.

My theory in rigging is to stay as simple as possible. The less hardware the better. When casting artificials for any kind of fish, I tie the lure directly to the line. If blues are a problem with their nasty teeth, I add a short wire leader. When bottom fishing I use just a sinker and a single hook. I find that by eliminating unnecessary hardware, I receive more strikes.

After using ultra-light tackle for some time you will acquire a style. With your new technique you will see why ultra-lighting Great South Bay is the best way to go.



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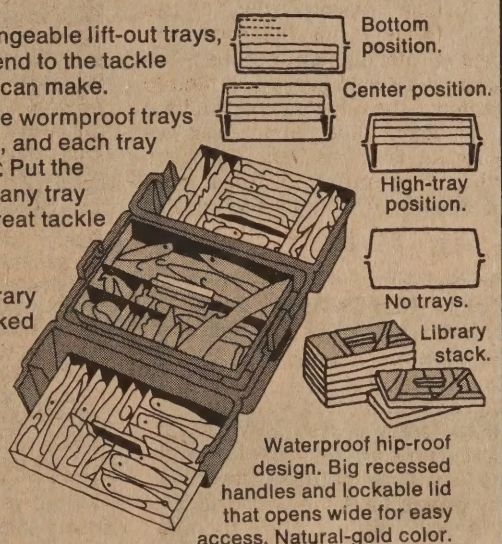

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

All reports out of Montauk are of excellentcod and pollack fishing when the weather doesn't get out of hand. There is still a large number of pollack being taken in the area at times, but Diamond jigs and a little luck in locating the fish is a must.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported very good fishing recently in the Block Island area. Large pollack up to 25 and 30 lbs. are being taken on Diamond jigs.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Helen II** was very enthusiastic when telling us of how they murdered the cod and pollack on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday the cod ranged from 3 to 30 lbs. and every angler on board had at least a large burlap skimmer bag filled to the top with fish. Sunday was also excellent despite the high winds, and Gary Quedens of Brooklyn took the pool with a 41 lb. cod. This was the first weekend of the $20/20 Special, which is a maximum of 20 anglers at $20 a head by reservations only for those anglers that don't want to fish elbow to elbow. Brad said that there are still a few reservations open for the 16th and the weekend of May 22 and 23. Give the skipper a call.

Capt. Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported very good fishing south of Block Island on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday a group from LILCO took 80 cod and pollack ranging from 5 to 25 lbs. for 13 anglers. The Atlantic Anglers of Merrick sailed on Sunday and had a bonanza with over 175 cod and pollack taken by 20 men. Four of the cod were in the 40 lb. range. Most of the pollack are being taken by anglers using Diamond jigs when a school shows up under the boat. Dick told us that he only has a few weekday openings left in May for large group charters that want to get in on this terrific spring run of cod and pollack at Montauk.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that usually the spring run of red cod starts on the Southwest Ledge, but this past week he found the fish in tight south of Block Island. The fish ranged in size from 4 to 15 lbs. and the fishing has been steadily improving. On Saturday the boat worked over a school of large pollack in the 20 to 30 lb. range. There were many broken lines and lost jigs, but the bags of the anglers were all full.

Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin III** reported a real bonanza on Sunday when only 44 anglers managed to bring over 350 cod and pollack over the rails. Largest cod was a healthy 42 lbs. and the average is 12 to 15 lbs. There is a new run of green fish off Block Island now that is providing all the action.

Bill Mayranen of Bellmore won the pool with this 40 lb. cod taken aboard the Peconic Queen III.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand at the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said that the flounders are holding their own with the blackfish starting to show up at about the rate of a couple per boat in the 4 to 8 pound range. On Friday three members of the Harmony Fishing Club in Flatbush took 43 flounders at the Fish Factory. One of these fish weighed 4¼ pounds and of the others, nothing was under 2 pounds. Saturday the catches were larger in the area of 50 or more per boat but they were of smaller size caught in various areas.

SHINNECOCK

Mickey at **Altenkirch Tackle** said that there has been pretty good weakfishing in the Peconic near Cow's Neck. They are being caught on shrimp tauts all day long. At present these weaks are not present in the canal itself. The canal does have plenty of weakfish and they are also in the Peconic Bay. Some mackerel were caught but nothing like the quantities of last week. Here and there a few striped bass are being taken on plugs and Alou Eels. These are keepers up to 8 pounds.

Capt. Clark Bellows, Sr. of the **Capt. Clark Fleet** reported that they are still doing a good job on the large Peconic flounder, but the fishing is now best off the south side of Jamesport off Red Cedar Point in 15 to 18 ft. of water. On Sunday they took a shot at the weakfish for a while and boated six fish up to 8½ lbs. The weakfishing should be improving steadily from now on, and as soon as they are consistent, the Capt. Clark will switch over from flounder for them.

HAMPTON BAYS

Bradley's Fishing Station reports good catches of flounder off Heady Creek. These are from 1 to 1½ pounds and are being taken on worms.

Mike Gentile and Bill Winans from Rockland County with 110 flounder up to 1 ½ pounds. The fish were taken off the Coast Guard Station using bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station!

MORICHES BAY

Bob Cole at **Moriches Bait and Tackle** tells us that the flounder fishing has been off and on all week. The buoy 24 area has been most productive in the channel. You can expect about 15 to 30 fish of ¾ to 1½ pounds which will take blood with loads of mussel chum. The fluke seem to be off to an early start at the inlet New Cut and also buoy 35 area. No big sizes as of yet but mostly keepers. Combination baits of sand, spearing and squid are best. Weakfishing remains about the best west of the Smithtown Bridge and also east of it. There are a lot of weaks but they are slow hitters. Best bet is a Salty Dog with squid for these 3 to 10 pound fish. Along the beaches the striped bass are just picking at the natural baits offered to them. The best you can hope for at present is something from keepers up to 5 or 8 pounds.

Silly Lilly Fishing Station reports Saturday was very good for flounder on the ebb, 60 to 80 fish per boat in the afternoon. Those who out waited the rain did a job. Best was south of buoy 42 with worms and mussel chum, and the fish were big and beautiful. Jack Kassover and Phil Prager and son Adley of Springvalley had 63 flounder from 1 to 1½ pounds. Sunday was all fogged in.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Station** says that lots of fluke have been taken at buoys 24, 25 and 26 at the inlet. The largest was 6½ pounds and many smaller keepers were boated on sand-eels. Weakfishing has slowed down,

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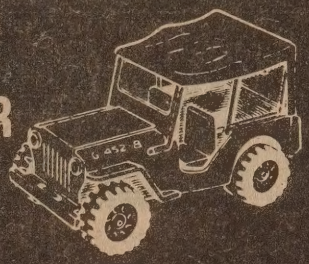

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with a few here and there on shrimp jigs. Flounder are spotty, and you have to find the pockets of fish and you must wait them out, with worm, mussel and mussel chum.

WEST SAYVILLE

American Sportsman Shop reports weakfish from 3 to 7 pounds at buoy 15 in Range Channel on Salty Dogs, both white and amber, tipped with squid strips. Mackerel are five miles out southwest of Fire Island. Catches have been very good, up to 210 in 4 hours by one boat. Fluke are starting to show at the Moses Bridge off Ocean Beach.

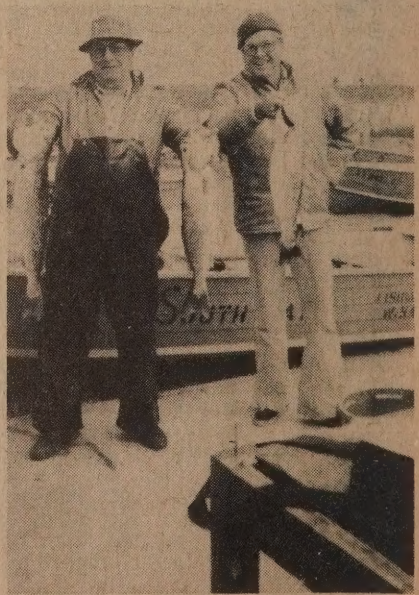
Marty at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports very good weakfishing, drifting between buoys 25 and 30 or buoys 4 and 5 off Heckscher. These fish are averaging 6½ pounds, with the largest for the weekend hitting 8½ pounds on pink Salty Dogs and on hi-lo rigs using squid. Outgoing water is best. There are flounder to be had between buoys 28 and 29 in the channel on clam bait. Fluke are there also in good numbers, with one third being keepers. These fluke were hitting clam on flounder rigs.

OAKDALE

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle gives us the basic information that there are fluke to be had as well as weakfish off Ocean Beach on Salty Dogs bounced along the bottom.

CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported doing very well with the newly arrived fluke in Fire Island Inlet and on both sides of the Robert Moses



Ed Mossman and Jim Horne of Manhatten caught these three weakfish weighing about 6 lbs. each on salty dogs off bouy 30. Photo courtesy of the South Bay Fishing Station.

John Borris,12, of Elmont and Ed Quick with their catch aboard the Lady Ann.

Bridge. On Friday, 17 anglers took 175 nkeepers. About 70% of the fluke being taken are keepers, which is a very good ratio as compared to last year. On Saturday, the boat fished off Ocean Beach for a short time and managed 15 weakfish. Sunday was also excellent for fluking, with 20 anglers taking more than 200 keepers up to 5 lbs. The fish are hitting on both tides and the best baits are sand eels or a strip of fluke or flounder. The Capt. Scotty will now be mixing up the fishing with fluke and weakfish, including afternoon trips. See their ad.

The **Captain Ben Litwin** has also been doing a job on the fluke around the Robert Moses Bridge in the inlet. Hi-hook on Sunday was 26 keeper fluke for one angler. Very few throwbacks, average size about 1½ lbs. and one up to 6½ lbs. Sand eel and squid combo the best bait.

The **Captain Joseph Fleet** has been doing very well with both the fluke and mackerel all week. The mackerel are now right outside the inlet and the fish are all big Bostons. The unexpected early run of fluke that started Friday saw 20 anglers take 175 fish in the Fire Island Inlet. Shiner or sand eel combined with a strip of fluke or flounder seems to be the best bait for these fish, which are hitting on both moving tides and even through the slack water.

The **Lady Ann** reports flounder fishing hot and cold. On Friday they tried for fluke and surprisingly did very well and by the end of the day everyone in the fleet was fluking. There were 120 keeper fluke decked on Friday for 27 members of the New York City Police Dept. Capt. Neil says the fluke are all in the right places and this is a large body of fish all bigger than last year at this part of the season. 25 percent are midgets. The average fluke are 2½ to 3 pounds and are after sand eel baits. There are a lot of fluke over a large area and this looks like a good fluking season, happily says Captain Neil. All fishing suffered on Saturday due to the weather, but Sunday saw fluking stronger than ever, with 135 keepers for 29 members of the Nesconsett F.D. The pool fish went 4 pounds even. The start and end of the tides were the best using sandeels and mackerel fillets. The area between the bridge and buoy 8 was very good to excellent.

An unamed angler called in and said Friday's outgoing tide worked well in the State Channel between Oakbeach and Captree Islands for weakfish 5 to 7½ pounds casting rubber shrimp tipped with squid.

BABYLON

Augies Bait and Tackle tells us that Ken Mearns on his boat "Easy Rider" bagged an 8 pound 2 ounce weak at Ocean Beach on Saturday on a shrimp jig. Two or three fish per man, no great numbers being caught as yet. One man brought in 3 weakfish in the 6 pound class taken on pink dogs. Ed Asaro on his boat "Tork I" fished West Island for weaks in Saturday's rain. He caught. A Babylon angler known as Captain Al, had 41 fluke (30 keepers) on sandeels and squid between Moses Bridge and the Coast Guard Station. These were 2 pound class fish and resulted in 21 pounds of fillets. Mackerel at the Whistler buoy, chumming in 65 feet of water.

Bergen Point Fishing Station reports Dickerson's Channel on Saturday was very good for big weaks from 5 to 6 pounds on Salty Dogs. Whiting offshore and fluke spotty but increasing. Flounder are spotty and decreasing.

LINDENHURST

Captain Bob of the **Lazy Day II** reports fair flounder fishing over the weekend and is switching over to fluke by this weekend. Bob still has choice weekday and weekends open and offers a good days charter fishing locally.

Captain Porter of the **Bullet** called to say that a bottle of champaign was officially broken over the bow of the brand new **Bullet** down in the shipyard down in Florida and it should be arriving in 7 to 10 days at its new berth at the Anchorage in Lindenhurst. Jay said that on the trial run and skakedown cruise the boat ran faster than expected and it should take only 2 days non-stop from Miami to the Anchorage. Jay anticipates great trips this summer for the big offshore species. Check his ad for sailing schedules. Captain Porter has installed 3 scanners and 3 chart recorders, so there won't be any guess work on these offshore runs.

Charlies Bait and Tackle reports plenty of mackerel in 60 feet of water, chumming, 150 degrees out of the inlet. Plenty of fluke on squid and sandeels in the Sore Thumb area. Flounder are still around, still desiring bloodworms. Best areas are Fox Creek, the Babylon Pool, and the Copaigue Hole. Weakfish in the State Channel are hitting shrimp jigs and squid tipped hi-lo rigs.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports weakfish off the Amityville Cut, at the East West Channel from 2½ to 7 pounds on sandworms on a hi-low rig, with amber shrimp jigs working well also. For flounder, Squaw Island has been producing fish 1½ to 2 pounds on bloodworm and mussel chum, all tides.

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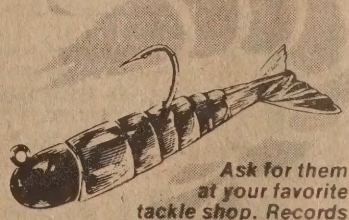

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Peter Rabczewski caught this 5½ lb. weakfish off Ocean Beach by bouy 12 on a white salty dog. Photo courtesy of Wet-A-Line.

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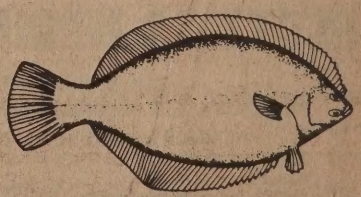

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SEAFORD

The **Hustler** was chartered by the Alsan Auto Body over the weekend. They took 35 flounder in the back of Massapequa. These were 1½ to 2 pound fish which were taken on bloodworms. Near the Meadowbrook Bridge six weeks mostly 3 pounds were taken on green salty dogs. These weaks refused the pink color.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us that Bill Diederich of Bethpage came into the shop with 28 weakfish up to 11 pounds taken at Peconic Bay's buoy 29, along with Tom Tremble of Glen Head. 4-pound test line was employed and Boone Touts and twister tail lures cast and retrieved did the trick. Pete Gattus fished the state channel at Gilgo and took 5 weakfish on shrimp lures. Flounder was poor this past weekend, though the Massapequa shoreline from Florence Beach to Unqua Point was good fishing the deep water and the holes. Fish are good size. A lot of fluke reports coming in. By the weekend fluking should be very good. Good blackfishing at the bridges and Lonnie says that he is well supplied with fiddlers and green crabs. The blacks are running up to 8 pounds. No bass reports as of yet.

Salice Boat Basin reports good flounder fishing with some weaks and some fluke mixed in. '76 year young Sam Zumbuto had 82 flounder on worms and mussel chum between Squaw Island and Massapequa Cove. Four Corners and the 3rd Bridge are also producing flounder. Weakfish are taking sandworms on the bottom on a long leader at the 3rd bridge and along the Massapequa Cove in early morning hours prior to boat traffic.

MERRICK

Frank at **Merrick Marine Supplies** reports good fluking in Swift Creek and Haunt's Creek on sandeels and killies. These are 2 to 2½ pound fish. Mackerel scattered but caught 150 degrees out in 90 feet of water. Passable flounder action at Squaw Island and the green house area.

Nick's Fishing Station reports a lot of fluke taken on Saturday, with Swift Creek producing best on flounder belly and sandeels. Don McCormick of Manhatten had 11 keepers out of 20 fluke. Sal DiGiovanni of Queens had some fluke plus 25 flounder. Ned's Creek and Rowboat Alley are producing. A couple of blowfish have been taken, with young angler Lisa Miller taking 1 very big blowfish on Sunday at Merrick Hole, along with a couple of 1½ pound flounders. Jimmy says very good blackfishing at the Meadowbrook Bridge on green crab, with one approaching 11 pounds taken this week. One weakfish was taken in Swift Creek on a shrimp jig.

Al Lloyd and Carby Bethea of Westbury with their first blackfish of the year weighing 7 lbs. The fish was caught on worms while flounder fishing. Photo courtesy of the Store.

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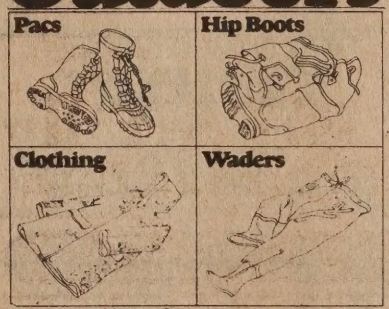

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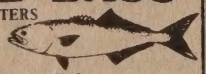

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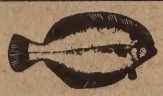

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FREEPORT

The **Aloma II** has been fishing for mackerel this past week with much success. Capt. Schmidt feels now is the time to switch back to the flounder and fluke. Capt. Grimley of the **Aloma** said there was plenty of ling to be had all week. They have also been picking up sea bass at the end of the week. Capt. Grimley himself had one of 3 pounds. This week they will fish for sea bass and blacks.

Captain Al of the **Captain Al** said the macks are still good. Anglers have had 30 to 100 or more on every trip. The Captain Al will run afternoon trips at 4:30 P.M. from Wednesday thru Sun.

The **Starstream II** tells us that the mackerel catches were of decent size of ¼ to ½ bags on Saturday said Capt. Kessinger. Sunday was a super catch day with 1 and 2 bags full of macks and still they were coming on. These fish were less than 1 hour from the dock. Capt. Kessinger has intentions of going for sea bass this week but that depends on the mackerel situation and sea bass availability.

The Captain Lou II reports flounder are starting to move out and the fluke are picking up. Lou picked up 3 snowshoes in Swift Creek up to 3½ pounds so there are still good big flounders around along with many fish that are smaller. Since the fluke are still on the thin side, Lou will be staying with flounder for awhile yet. He is also taking a few blowfish every day as well.

Edna at the **Poop Deck Dock** called to say that the Poop Deck Restaurant will be open at 4 A.M. every morning, serving breakfast for hungry fishermen.

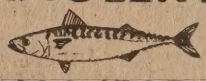
Alan Bases has now taken over production of the Alou Line of Saltwater lures, and it is now being sold under the Alee Lure Brand. If anything the line has been improved and you now can find this excellent line of lures in your local tackle shops again.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports Saturday poor due to weather but that on Sunday Bill Koones took 25 flounder in Swift Creek on worms, mussels and mussel chum. Some fluke, 16 to 17 inches, have been taken on squid and sandeels in Swift Creek. Plenty of blacks at the bridge and at the barge in the inlet on fiddlers.

Frank's Marina tells us that Willy Ramunda of Freeport had 6 keeper fluke including one of 4 pounds in Swift Creek on incoming, using squid and spearing on Wednesday. Sunday saw Doug McCann with 10 keepers from Sloop Channel on incoming on squid and spearing. Frank had 8 fluke himself 17 to 18 inches taken at Swift Creek and Sloop Channel. Flounder has slowed down.

Point Lookout Island Park

POINT LOOKOUT MARINA
ANGLER II



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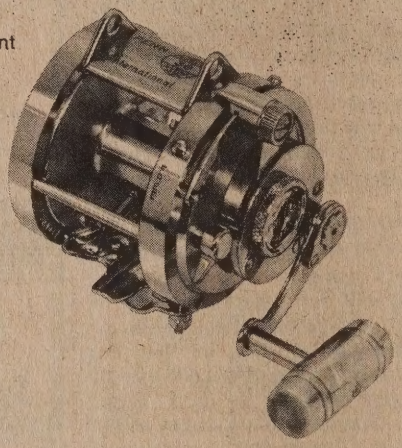

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POINT LOOKOUT

Captain Art White of the **Angler II** said the macks were thick and big south of Jones Inlet. He looks forward to a couple weeks more of this fishing. A 20 pound pollack was taken on 10 pound line by Bob White of Flushing. He waid that it fought like a bluefish.

The **Marie III** reports mackerel fishing was hot and heavy both Saturday and Sunday at the Pollution Buoy south of Tobay about 14 miles in 90 feet of water. Anchoring and chumming was the order of the day, and they loaded up. Another week of mackerel is hoped for, as more macks are being caught to the west.

Ed's Fishing Station said there are plenty of flounder in Swift Creek, the State Channel and on the flats. All on worms and mussel. Fluke fishermen who went out with live killies that were picked up at Ed's had some fair catches. The fluke seem to be concentrated in the channels at present. The fish are mostly keepers and as to be expected at this time of year not much bigger. Blackfish held up well during the week but not many anglers went for them on the weekend. The bridges—Meadowbrook and Long Creek are the best bet. At the Coast Guard Station there have been nice catches of eels.

ISLAND PARK

Commodore reports that the flounde fishing slowed on Saturday. They wen for fluke by buoys 17 and 19 and on on drift took over 30 keepers. They switche back to flounder fishing and took but 3 flounders. Switching back again to fluk fishing, another 20 keepers were had Captain Clem feels a switch to fluke wil be the best bet in the coming days.

According to **Beckman's Tackle** i Lynbrook the fluke came in very good o Friday and Saturday. Boats in Jone Inlet had about 12 to 20 per boat. Abou 1/5 of the catch consisted of throwback and the biggest of the fluke run 2½ pounds. All these fish are caught strictl drifting combination baits of sandeels spearing and squid. The blackfish ar just coming into the heart of thei season. They are being taken at most o the bridges on clams and fiddlers an

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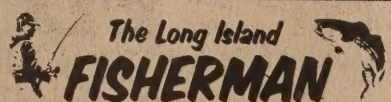
The Long Island
FISHERMAN
FISHING TRIP CONTEST
The person with the license plate number CHK-38 failed to call into L.I.F. a description of his car by the Friday deadline so once again there is no winner of the Litter Box Contest. Next week's winner will receive $40 instead of the usual $10 plus a fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his choice.
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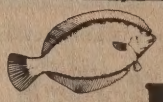
GREENPORT



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SAILING OPEN Mon. & Fri. 8AM
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NANTUCKET & CANYON TRIPS

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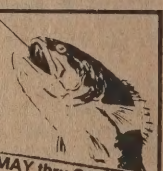

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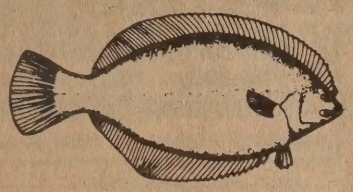

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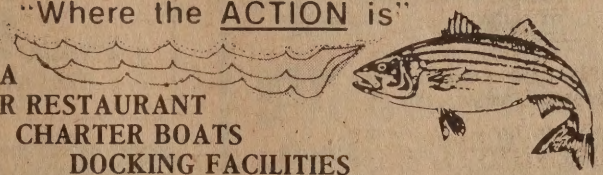

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NOTICE TO ALL **VIKING FLEET** FISHERMEN:

(1) THE VIKING STAR HAS BEEN FISHING THE NANTUCKET WRECKS FOR THE PAST **SIX** YEARS. OUR COMPETITION HAS JUST STARTED THIS YEAR.

(2) FINDING THE EXACT LOCATION OF ALL THE BEST WRECKS (NOT JUST THE EASY ANDREA DORIA) IS A VALUABLE ART AND A PRECISE SKILL REQUIRING THE USE OF SONAR EQUIPMENT, WHICH OUR COMPETITION DOES NOT HAVE.

(3) **Since our competition has chosen to schedule their "wreck" trip on the same day as ours, but LEAVING just after we do, we have decided to postpone our scheduled May 2nd & May 23rd trips for one day, and will be SAILING MONDAY NIGHTS, MAY 3rd & MAY 24th AT 9PM**

(4) WE WISH OUR COMPETITION ALL THE LUCK THEY'LL NEED IN FINDING THESE WRECKS OTHER THAN THE ANDREA DORIA.

ALL PASSENGERS BOOKED ON MAY 2nd & MAY 23rd TRIPS, PLS. CALL TO CONFIRM RES. FOR MAY 3rd & MAY 24th

SPECIAL REDUCED RATES *in Celebration of Our 40th Anniversary!*

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Cash in on 3 Generations of Fishing Know-How!

40 Years of Experience is Our Teacher!

You're in Good Hands With....

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NANTUCKET WRECK TRIP for GIANT COD & POLLACK

~~Leaving May 23, 9PM~~ SOLD OUT
~~Returning May 24, 9PM~~

Next Trip June 6, 9PM
Ret. June 7, 9PM (Going Fast)

Fare $45 • Dep. $20 • 50 Pass. Limit
Send Dep to: Viking Fleet, Box 497, Montauk, NY 11954

NEW SUPER 104'

5AM EVERY DAY — GIANT COD POLLACK BLACKS

STILL A FEW OPENINGS FOR MAY 3 & MAY 24. CALL TO RESERVE & CONFIRM!

NEWEST • BIGGEST • FASTEST • SAFEST • BEST EQUIPPED ALL WEATHER BOAT, CUSTOM BUILT FOR FISHING COMFORT FROM BOW TO STERN! (NO WHIPLASH)

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Return Monday Approx. 10PM
Fare $50, Reservations a MUST!
Call for further info!

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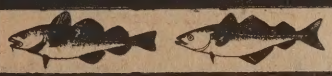
GIANT COD & POLLACK



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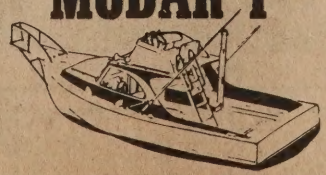

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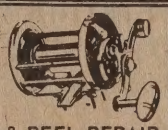
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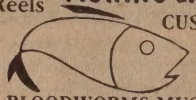
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are of good size. Flounders are still available for those who want them.

LONG BEACH

Tom at **Long Beach Sports Marina** said that there are good fluke fishing now in Jones and Deb's Inlet and opposite the Capri Beach Club in Reynold's Channel. They are being taken on sand eels and Uncle Josh Ripple-Rind. As proof of this John Stein of Oceanside took 7 keepers in the inlet. Jack MacDougall of Long Beach had 7 fluke to 3½ pounds on sandeels. Tom says the Ripple-Rind that

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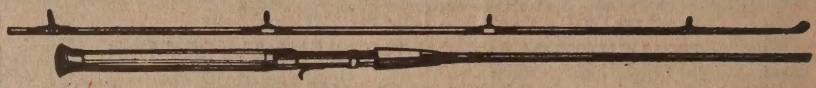

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JAMAICA BAY

Bill at **Noehren's Fishing Station** said that there are plenty of flounders mostly at the South Channel Bridge. These are taken primarily on bloodworms. the Marine Parkway Bridge has had a good showing of blackfish. These fish are 2 to 4 pounds and are hitting skimmer clams and fiddlers. Striped bass of from barely keeper size to throwbacks are being taken on whole sandworms at the North Channel Bridge. Also at that spot there

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has been a good showing of eels.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mark on the **Helen H** said the mackerel fishing was good over the weekend. The mackerel are plentiful and still coming.

The **Eagle** has had full bags of macks practically every day. The afternoon trips at 4:30 are made for whiting, ling and blackfish at Ambrose where the action is fast.

"Plenty of Bastonians around" said Capt. Fred of the **Amberjack IV**. He was referring to the large size and big catchs of those scrappy mackerel. Capt. Fred said he was planning offshore wreckfishing trips and to call for more info.

The Chief reports lots of macks and that is what the catch is of primarily. They have been taken at the BA and NC buoys and the Ambrose Tower.

The weekend was a good one for the **Big Mohawk II**. On Saturday the Mombasha Fire Dept of Monroe N.Y. was aboard. Their catches ranged from 30 to 50 macks. Sunday saw the Orbit Lodge of Brooklyn take home double bags of these lively fish.

The Chianti Captained by Charles Sweeny, on Saturday took out Larry McLoughlin's charter to the BA buoy for mackerel fishing. They fished there in the morning and had to use bunker chum to get their fish. They made a run in the afternoon to Ambrose Ridge where loads of flashers on recorder showed plenty of fish which were thought to be mackerel. Diamond jigging produced loads of mackerel of about 4 pounds which when brought to the surface had mouthfuls of baitfish like spearing.

Stella Maris reports blackfish at the wrecks and on the jetties at Coney Island. These are taking worms, clams and fiddler or green crabs. The Silver Hole has plenty of flounder and they can also be had at Manhattan Beach and the jetties on worm and clam.

Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** reports that Saturday saw very good sea bass, black and ling fishing off Jersey. Sunday was a bit slower but they still picked a few pollack and fair catches of sea bass, with the weather causing a slow down.

STATEN ISLAND

Little improvement in the flounder fishing according to Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop**. Great Kills Park, the beach jetty and harbor as well as most of the shoreline of Staten Island has steady flounder fishing but they are smaller. For the purists the back of Great Kills Harbor has yielded up striped bass up to 12 pounds on swimmer plugs such as the Redfin. Best time for this fishing is at sun-up or sun down. The first confirmed striped bass picked up while trolling was made by Mike Galetta on board the "Ginnie G". He trolled a Bingle Gorilla rig at the west bank lighthouse and a 12 pound striped bass sucked it right in.

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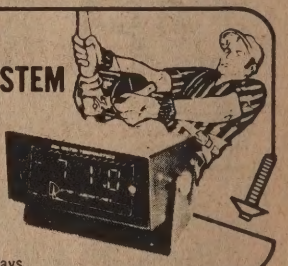

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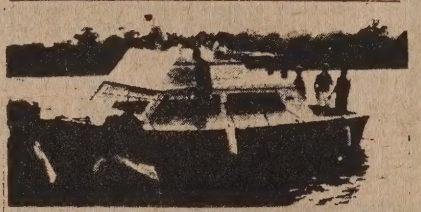

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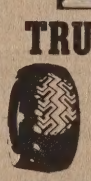

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ADVANCED WEAKFISHING

(Continued from page 15.)

and the pliable tail tends to give the lure a little more natural action than the lead-head variety. The Lupo shrimp is excellent for casting, but ineffective for deep-jigging because it slowly sinks rather than darts back to the bottom. Lead-headed plastic shrimp are excellent artificials for both casting/retrieving and deep-jigging. It's a good idea to add a short, pennant shaped strip of squid to either for a little smell to the offering. A wide-headed plastic shrimp made by Bagley that is excellent for deep-jigging is shown in Photo C, (5) and (6).

TINS. Excellent for deep-jigging or straight "squidding" retrieve in moderate depths. Photo B: (1), Demon Lure; (2) gold Ber-Zerk-O by Ava Tackle; (3) Hopkins Shorty with single hook; (4) gold or silver Ava-27 diamond jig with single hook. As a rule, squid strips are not necessary with tins but can't do any harm.

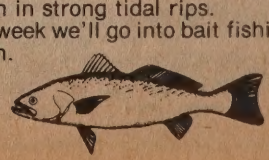
BUCKTAILS. Excellent for casting/retrieving in shallow and moderate depths, but ineffective for deep-jigging. Should be used with a squid strip whenever possible, or pork rind in an emergency. Four types of bucktails are shown in Photo B: (5) Smilen' Bill; (6) Gold Seal "Flash Buck" with mylar strips; (7) lima-bean head, white/red combo, and (8), ball head bucktail tied by John DeMaio. All bucktails are lead-heads with hair from a deer's tail tied to the head, and white is the preferred color with an occasional touch of red t the head.

TRI-FIN WHIPTAILS. A white, split tube on a keeled lead-head. Very effective for casting/retrieveing in moderate depths and deep-jigging, particularly in the Peconics. For unknown reasons, usually not a productive lure in Great South Bay, but pure dynamite in the Peconics and east-end waters. Should be tipped with a squid strip.

TRI-FIN JIG 'N SHRIMP. Best all-around lure for Great South Bay weakfish in my opinion. Combines the lead-head and hait of the bucktail with the pink shrimp's flourescent color, so you have the good properties of both built into one lure. Execellent for both casting and retrieving, squid strip not necessary or desired. Introduced by Tri-Fin only last year, now second only to the Salty Dog in sales and popularity. Try 'em.

CHUMIN SQUID. Shown in Photo C, (7) the Chumin Squid is a keeled lead-head with a plastic squid body that is excellent for deep-jigging in inlets and ocean. The lure also comes with a plastic pouch (8) that contains ten freeze dried squid pellets. A pellet is inserted into the squid body, and as it dissolves in the water a chum slick of squid scent is released into the current. Also an excellent lure to use when fishing for big weakfish in strong tidal rips.

Next week we'll go into bait fishing for weakfish.



Because it was Saturday it was too rough o continue trying but it there were lenty of marks on the recorder indicated oads of fish to be had. Baitfishermen rom the surf at Great Kills Park Beach re starting to hook up to pretty big fish. While talking to Lenny a Jim Gallo called nd said he was bringing in a striped ass estimated weight of over 20 ounds which was caught at the above ocation.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

Orient By the Sea Marina reports that Don Gross had 27 showshoes on worms and mussel chum, from 2 to 4 pounds fishing the ruins and green hills off Gardiner's Island. Bob Hiltz and Ken Thurber on their own boats did an almost identical number.

GREENPORT

Captain Richie Jensen of the **Wilhelric** said that after the great flounder fishing they have just had, he is switching over to weakfishing. He suggests to bring some type of casting gear preferably spin type. These weakfish are taking shrimp lures and are on the bottom. There has also been reports of porgy action.

The charterboat **Pooka V** wishes to announce openings for evening weakfish trips, on a group charter basis only, with casting bucktails in the evening the prime type of fishing to be done. If you want to get your pals in on some of this exciting fishing, for tide running weaks, call Captain Dave. (See ad).

SOUTHOLD

According to **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** flounders are still being had at Ram's Head and Long Beach also at buoys 12 and 17. Weakfish of nice size have been caught in the Jessup's Neck area, but they are still to come. At that same spot porgies and blacks have also been taken. The mackerel seemed to have passed them by.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center in Aquebogue said that the weaks are here in the South Race. Shrimp lures with a strip of squid is a must. Porgies are showing and should be in by the weekend. Flounder fishing is still good for those who want them. In among the rocks at Robbins Island the blackfish are being caught in increasing quantities and size.

RIVERHEAD

Rich of **Riverhead Marine Supply** went out on Friday to try for mackerel southeast of Shinnecock. It was pretty spotty pickings. Inside Peconic Bay at the South Race the weakfish are starting to show in quantity. Flander's Bay continues to have bountiful flounder fishing.

ROCKY POINT

Pat at **Nick's Bait and Tackle** said the blacks are coming along very well along the beach. There are many fish of five to six pounds that are being taken on sandworms as well as fiddler and green crabs. John O'Neil took a 7¼ pound black and Mr. Olsen took a 2½ pound flounder both from the Rocky Point Beach area.

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that the blacks are excellent from Friendship Beach west to Cedar Beach. As an example, John Drehor of Rocky Point took 5 blackfish to 9 pounds at the Broadway Beach on sandworms. When the fish were opened they were found to be filled with crabs. The mackerel are schooling at dawn and dusk and occasionally can be caught from the shore. The boat fishermen cleaned up on the mackerel at buoy 11. Reliable sources reported striped bass are being taken on worms and small Redfins off the beaches.

PORT JEFFERSON

The open boat **Days Off II** reports good fishing for mackerel, flounder and blacks most of the week. The weekend it was a little slow. Flounder of 1½ to 2 pounds are being taken on worms east of the harbor. Blackfish have been caught by flounder fishermen and sizes range from babies to 9 pounds.

The **Betty W** reports blackfish, flounder and mackerel good all week. On Wednesday, five men had 200 pounds, all good sized fish. Ed and Steve Nailicki of Stony Brook had 70 flounders between them, with Captain John fishing the areas east of Miller Place. On Saturday, the **Janet C** had the Five Corners Fishing Club aboard and they did a job on the blacks, flounder, and mackerel, as did the open boat Betty W. One boat will run open every weekend, says Captain John. Either the **Betty W** or the **Janet C.**

NORTHPORT

Congratulations to Tom Bowman on his recent marriage this past Saturday and we understand he is honeymooning in the Haiwian Islands. Question? Will Tom bring back a fishing report from the Islands? But in the meantime, his father Ted of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reports that everything is starting to break loose now. There is good fishing for blacks, weaks, and flounder in the Sound and harbor areas. The chances are very good of catching these species in either place. Mackerel are in the Sound but no big reports of them as of yet.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** skippered by Pete Novellino on Saturday took out a load of cub scouts from Bellmore and East Meadow. It was just fair fishing. On Sunday, everything broke lose. The Sound was alive with fish. Big flounder and blackfish were inshore and boston mackerel and herring were offshore. The fishing scene was a mixed bag.

As reported by **Four Winds Tackle** there were plenty of mackerel on the weekend in the Sound. These fish range from the LILCO loading platform west to Lloyd Point. These are big macks over 2 pounds. At Asharoken and Sand City the flounder fishing has been pretty good. The blackfish have taken an upswing and some to 7 pounds have been taken on worms while flounder fishing. They are also hitting on fiddler crabs. The hot spots at present are Marshall Field, Target Rock, Eatons Neck and Makamah Beach. The Cold Spring Harbor Causs-way has striped bass ranging in size from shorts to 12 pounds. These bass have taken small surface plugs and Alou-Elvers.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports masses of mackerel off Lloyd Point. They are hitting the mackerel trees with a diamong jig. Striped bass to 8 pounds have been taken from the Cold Spring Causeway on sandworms. Sand City and Callahan Beach have yielded blackfish that were taken on sandworms or clams. Flounder fishing is still good in Hunting-ton Bay, but mussel chumming and worm bait are still your best bet. Ronnie says to try Price's Bend.

GLEN COVE

The macks are in well from the Glen Cove breakwater to Peacock Point said John at **Glen Cove Sport Shop**. He advises to troll 'till they are found and then cast for them. The Glen Cove breakwater has blackfish as well as other extremely rocky areas. Big 4 to 6 pound blacks are being taken on worm or clam but fiddlers are the best. Striped bass are responding well to a trolled worm on on a spinner rig.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports that the City Island Bridge is still loaded with 5 to 9 pound blackfish. Other areas that are both shallow and rocky will also yield good quantities of blackfish as they are in profusion throughout the area. Bait preference is fiddlers and green crabs followed by clam. There are lots of flounder and the mackerel are all over the Sound. Jack said all the boats that went out came in early because the anglers were arm weary from hauling in all the mackerel. For the striped bass fisherman, there are lots of shorts at both Turtle Cove and Harts Island. None are over 6 pounds.

NEW ROCHELLE

The **Klondike VI** knocked the hell out of the mackerel all week. During the week catches ran from 20 to 80 but Sunday was bonanza day with 50 to 150 per man. A regular by the name of Harry Schwab went out on Wednesday, Thurs-day and Friday and on each day he had a garbage can of these macks which averaged 2 pounds and some that went p to three.

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